

## Sermon Outline

Research, write, and preach a narrative sermon based on Peter's experience with Dorcas and the church leaders from Joppa.

### Bible Passage:

*Peter and Dorcas. Acts 9:32-43*

### Sermon Thesis:

*When God calls, He empowers.*

### Key Thoughts:

- *How do you know when you've been "called."*
- *Is there any task that you would be afraid of doing for God?*
- *Why did God involve laymen from Joppa in the calling of Peter?*

### Research:

- The distance and topography from Lydda to Joppa.
- Wikipedia information on Joppa. Where? Products? Languages? Population? Etc.
- What did Dorcas "do," and for whom?
- What is the significance of Dorcas being known in three languages? *Dorcas, Tabitha, Gazelle.*
- Describe the room what Dorcas was lying – *colors, odors, textures...*

### Imagine:

- What drew Peter to heal Aeneas.
- What emotions Peter felt when the men from Joppa begged him to come with them.
- Compassion, fear, uncertainty, urgency, hope...
- Being asked to heal someone with AIDS.
- Being asked to raise someone from the dead.
- Listening to a hundred distraught widows showing you what Dorcas had done for them.

### Purple Passages to try:

- "Walking into her room was like walking into a kaleidoscope where all the colors were spinning."
- "They assumed I would follow, like Centurions commanding their men to do the impossible, immediately."
- "Her face was lined with a thousand remembered smiles."
- "She rose hungry, yet eager to provide me a meal."

### STOP Signs that provide good spots for inserting local stories:

- Aeneas telling everyone about Jesus. *"Remember when ----- joined the church, how eager she was to tell everyone about Jesus..."*
- Two men asking Peter to go with them to Joppa. *"My phone rang at midnight..."*
- Women telling showing off their Dorcas clothes. *"Last week, when three of you delivered a new mattress to a family of refugees from Thailand..."*
- Halfway to Joppa. *"Sometimes I know I'm in over my head..."*